

Derbyshire Police Investigation into Assault on Police Officers

Investigation Standards: - What we expect from you

A Seven-Point Plan



Assaults on police officers and police staff should be investigated with the same care, compassion and commitment as an assault on any member of the public. This sounds obvious, but too often our response to assaults on officers and staff can be rushed or treated as secondary to other offences.

The Victim Code applies to all victims and therefore to assaults on police officers and staff.

Complying with the Victim Code means keeping the victim updated, discussing outcome options, and taking account of the victim's point of view before imposing an outcome.

This is crucial because we know that we don't always get our response right, with assaulted officers and staff reporting dissatisfaction and even resentment.

The assaulted officer must never have to investigate their own assault.

This is not appropriate on any level and even taking statements from witnesses may be inappropriate. The integrity of the investigation and the impartiality of the officer could be called into question, which could undermine the case and/or heighten the impact on the victim.

Victims recover better and more quickly if they receive the right welfare and supervision.

This also helps to avoid long-term negative consequences. The assaulted person's supervisor should meet with them as soon as it is practical to do so. The victim may downplay the impact on them, but supervisors must recognise the potential effects of the incident.

The supervisor must ensure that the divisional command team is informed to provide continuity of welfare support.

The Police Federation, Unison or other staff association can also provide valuable additional support to the victim.

The assaulted officer and the supervisor must complete an injury on duty report.

It will not always be possible for the victim to do this, in which case another person can complete the report.

To achieve a successful prosecution, the best evidence must be presented.

You should use Victim Personal Statements and whoever is investigating the assault needs to fully understand the "points to prove" for assaults on police officers or staff. An officer's self-written statements, provided straight after the events, could be made in haste and might not contain all of the key facts. As a result, cases sent for prosecution sometimes fail to meet basic evidential needs.